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GP 1636  
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**Attn: Art Unit 1636**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Appl. No. 09/472,067; Filed: December 23, 1999  
For: **Nucleic Acid Ladders**  
Inventors: Hu *et al.*  
Our Ref: 0942.4340002/RWE/BJD

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (in duplicate);
2. 8 pages of Form PTO-1449 citing 45 documents;
3. A copy of each of the 45 cited documents; and
4. One return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are

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necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Brian J. Del Buono  
Agent for Applicants  
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BJD/nef  
Enclosures